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Press Release

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ATTORNEY GENERAL DARRELL V. MCGRAW, JR., SETTLES MICROSOFT CASES

Attorney General Darrell V. McGraw, Jr. announced today a settlement of two antitrust lawsuits against Microsoft Corporation. The settlement requires Microsoft to pay the state \$1.3 million as well as offering the state an additional \$19.7 million in value which can be redeemed by West Virginia consumers and businesses.

The settlement received preliminary approval from Boone County Circuit Judge E. Lee Schlaegel today and must receive final approval before the settlement takes effect. As a condition of this settlement, the State of West Virginia also will dismiss its appeal pending before the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Up to \$18 million will be available to West Virginia consumers and businesses in the form of vouchers that may be used to buy any manufacturer's desktop, laptop and tablet computers, as well as any manufacturer's software used with those computer products and some peripheral devices used with personal computers.

"I am delighted that we have been able to reach such a generous settlement for the people of West Virginia," said Attorney General McGraw. "These results will enable us to continue to protect and serve all consumers in West Virginia, not just those who purchased Microsoft products. I am proud of my team and salute my staff for all their hard work in reaching this result."

Additional terms of the settlement are \$1 million of general purpose vouchers to West Virginia schools for hardware and software from any manufacturer and \$700,000 in general purpose vouchers to be distributed by the Attorney General to benefit West Virginia citizens. Of the \$18 million in vouchers for consumers and businesses, one half of any unclaimed vouchers will go to West Virginia public schools in the form of vouchers for hardware, software and professional development services.

The Boone County Circuit Court will consider the settlement for final approval in approximately sixty days.

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